

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-58 are pending in the application. Independent Claims 1, 28, and 37 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the Specification at least on page 6, line 4 through page 7, line 12, and Fig. 2 as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's Attorney thanks Examiner Colbert for a helpful telephonic interview on October 7, 2003 with the undersigned regarding the pending case. The substance of the interview consisted of the following:

- (1) United States Patent No. 5,879,103 to Trede was discussed;
- (2) An agreement with respect to amendments for the independent claims was reached.

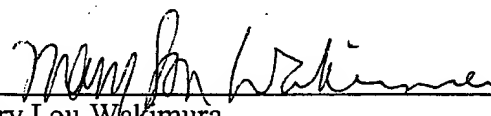
Pursuant to the telephonic interview, independent claims 1, 28, and 37 as now amended are believed to be in allowable condition. Therefore, dependent claims 2-13, 15-27, 29-36, and 38-58 are allowable for being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that Claims 1-13 and 15-58 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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